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2015

# Lily Peter Letters

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### Recommended Citation

Lily Peter Letters. Riley-Hickingbotham Library Archives and Special Collections, Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, Arkansas.

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# **Lily Peter letters**

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January 16, 2015

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	Ouachita Baptist University Library
<b>Title</b>	Lily Peter letters
<b>Date</b>	1980-1989
<b>Extent</b>	0.33 Cubic feet (1 archive box)
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Language of Materials</b>	English
<b>Text [Box]</b>	1

### Preferred Citation

Lily Peter Letters. Riley-Hickingbotham Library Archives and Special Collections, Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, Arkansas.

## Biographical/Historical note

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Lily Peter, Arkansas state poet laureate, was born on June 2, 1891, to William Oliver Peter and Florence Mobrey Peter in Phillips County, Arkansas. The eldest of ten children, she assumed the responsibility of their family farm when her father died in an accident in 1907. Peter graduated valedictorian from her high school in Ohio, Arkansas, and returned home to teach in small local schools. Though she struggled financially, she managed to make the farm successful and even bought a second plantation with her brother. After her brother passed away, she managed both plantations. Peter experimented in organic farming and was an active voice in conservation and environmental issues.

In addition to teaching and running the plantations, Peter studied English at Columbia and Vanderbilt universities and earned a master's degree from Vanderbilt. She also studied violin at Juilliard and became a supporter of the fine arts by donating money to build the Lily Peter Auditorium in Helena, Arkansas. Throughout her life, she wrote lyrical and historical poetry depicting the Arkansas Delta and was the state's Poet Laureate from 1971 to 1991. She died July 26, 1991.

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## Scope and Content

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From 1980 to 1989, Ouachita Baptist University Professor of English Johnny Wink corresponded with Lily Peter, Poet Laureate of Arkansas. Those letters as well as newspaper clippings and poetry are found in this collection.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Information

Ouachita Baptist University Library

### Conditions Governing Access

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### **Immediate Source of Acquisition**

1998

**To Johnny Wink**

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**Collection Inventory****To Johnny Wink**

1980

1981

1982

1983

1984

1985

1986

1987

1988